

## **POTENTIAL FUNDING FROM USDA-CSREES FOR ALTERNATIVES TO METHYL BROMIDE.**

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Funds for a competitive grant program to support research and extension activities on Alternatives to Methyl Bromide would be made available to land-grant research and extension programs, other universities and other research facilities that normally compete through the USDA-CSREES competitive grants programs. The new funds would be available through research, extension and research/extension combination projects. Alternatives to methyl bromide that have been developed require different management strategies than are required for methyl bromide alone. Since no single chemical control treatment thus far tested encompasses both plant pathogen/nematode and weed management, integrated management approaches need to be developed. Further, most of the pre-plant alternative research developed to date has focused on two commodities: fresh market tomato and strawberries. This CSREES competitive grants program would focus on integrated approaches that include: 1) increased supported for minor use chemicals on additional commodities, such as lettuce, pepper, other vegetables; 2) increased integrated research and extension activities on alternatives for use on ornamentals; 3) increased opportunities for field testing of integrated approaches for strawberry and fresh market tomato; 4) extension activities on implementation of alternatives; and 5) increased technology transfer of results to growers through education programs. Each category - research, extension and research/extension combinations would receive approximately 1/3 of the funding. These activities would more promote more rapid technology transfer from ARS and would support new alternative programs by an expansion of field testing of integrated approaches, would accelerate implementation of successful alternatives now available, and would provide more demonstration of alternatives to growers. The program would focus on other vegetables and ornamentals that are dependent on methyl bromide but continue to include tomato and strawberry. The use of the competitive process would assure that new research activities were complementary to ongoing ARS programs yet met the needs of industry. A request for proposal would be announced in the Federal Register. Proposals will be reviewed utilizing a two-tiered process. The first tier review will determine the need, relevancy, and importance of the submitted projects; the second tier would select projects based on the scientific merit.